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Thomasboro, Illinois
Centennial, 1864-1964.

R. Champaign Co. (1964)

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

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Alleluia!

1864

THOMASBORO ILLINOIS

1964

Centennial

August

6 - 9

"...Today A Village

Tomorrow A City"

Alleluia!

100 Years For Thomasboro

For 60 of these years The First National Bank of Thomasboro has continuously served this community.

Our Bank has grown with Thomasboro, until today we are a 'Full Service Bank'

We will continue to work with and for our Community,

"A Village Today, A City Tomorrow."

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF THOMASBORO, ILLINOIS

Since 1906

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Mayo W. Schaede

Hello Friends,

In the year 1864 the first pioneers settled in this area and founded the Village of Thomasboro, Illinois.

The growth of the community, at the beginning, was very slow due to the hardships experienced by these people. This area at that time was all swamp land, making it difficult to harvest enough grain from the land to feed families of that day. Through the years, these men toiled to improve their plots of ground so as to seek out a better living. Tiling the land was the answer. After drainage was established, yields improved which resulted in more people moving into the area. Today, through their efforts, we are living in one of the richest farm areas to be found anywhere.

Thanks to our forefathers who braved the hardships of the times to make our standard of living what it is today.

This celebration is intended to be a tribute to and in recognition of the accomplishments of those hardy individuals.

The executive committee wishes to extend their gratitude to every person in the area who worked tirelessly to make this pageant a success. We also want our friends and neighbors in the surrounding areas to know that we realize without their enthusiasm and support this celebration could not have been the success it is.

We are very happy to have had the experience of this festivity as many new friends have been made by everyone and a feeling of togetherness has been created such as we have never enjoyed before.

Many thanks to everyone for their loyal support, cooperation and untiring efforts put forth in this endeavor.

Mayo W. Schaede
General Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS
to
A GREAT COMMUNITY
of
FINE CITIZENS
from

Car Department

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Allen Coffey, Service Manager

Fred Miller, Body Shop Manager

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Ernie Rogers

ROGERS CHEVROLET CO.

Rantoul, Illinois 892-9616

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

The Thomasboro Story

Thomasboro, Champaign County, Illinois, a farming community, will celebrate its Centennial on August 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1964. This is to commemorate one hundred years of growth in Thomasboro and its surrounding territory.

Illinois, known as the "Prairie State," and Champaign County was a vast area of rich, black, vegetable-loam prairie with occasional groves and some broken land. It had been established as grain and stock-raising country; the soil and seasons were ideal for production of corn. However, this article pertains to a specific part of the county where Thomasboro was built.

In 1854, the General Land Commissioner of the State of Illinois granted land to the Illinois Central Railroad Company for the purpose of building a railroad from Chicago, Illinois, to Mobile, Alabama. After months of grueling hand-and-back labor the railroad became a reality. The area west of the railroad tracks for a distance of 7 miles west and 5 miles north and south was higher level ground than the east side of the tracks. A tract of land on the east side of the tracks measuring about 2 miles north and south and 7 miles east, comprising about 9,000 acres was low, flat prairie land with ponds, swamps and sloughs, and a haven and breeding place for birds and insects. There was an abundance of wild game birds, geese, ducks, snipes, prairie chickens, plovers and wild pigeons (a breed now believed extinct). This area was later referred to as the "Flats."

In 1857, settlers came in from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and other states by the dozens. These emigrants, English and Irish, arrived wanting to see and settle in the "New World," as they called it. There were about twenty English families bearing the names of Babb, Jervis, Deakin, Reynolds, Smith, Townsend, Porter, Morrison, Grindley, Morfey, Thomas, Titus, Towersey, Stamey, Condit and Machin. There were four families of Babbs--John, Jeffery, William and Joseph. These all settled west of the track, which was later known as "Little Briton." The Irish settled farther north and had names like Leonard, Burke, Bermingham, Malloy, Boyle, McCoy, and McConnell; practically all of these families became well-to-do. The high ground, since it did not require much preparation to make it tillable, was readily bought up and homes built. When the railroad was built through this territory, it was reported that the government (as an inducement or consideration) granted the railroad company every other section of land for a radius of several miles adjacent to their right-of-way. This land was sold by the railroad company, and more was made available, to the farmers. Having heard of the new land, people from other states came into this country, some in covered wagons, with their families looking for homesites. Some settled here; others went farther west and settled on the higher timber land.

Then came the Civil War in 1860. From information available, there were several men from this territory that enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. Those known to have gone were Vinton Harris, John Martin and Peter Arie; all of whom returned home safely after the war. John Collins, age 33, was killed in action. Henry Beckman was captured by the Rebels, imprisoned in the infamous Andersonville, Georgia, prison, and released after the war.

On December 21, 1863, a landowner, John Thomas, dedicated a plot of ground on the east side of the track to be used as a townsite for a town, to be named Thomasboro. This plot was recorded in 1863. The original site consisted of 7 blocks of lots, allowing for streets and alleys. In spite of the fact that the ground of the site was low and marshy, construction of a town in a corn field was started.

Times were hard and a dollar was not picked up easily; but land was cheap. The government and the railroad company offered thousands of acres for sale, and it was publicized. Buyers came in, and the records show that land was bought at $3.00 per acre and up. The price depended upon the location and condition of the land; much of it was financed at high rates of interest on the balance due.

On January 26, 1865, John Babb, father of George J. Babb and grandfather of Howard J. Babb, bought 160 acres of land about 4 miles west of Thomasboro. As expected in any new venture, speculators played their part, as evidenced by many tracts being bought and sold several times before being built or settled on.

In about 1870, Thomas Deakin, Sr. bought 240 acres adjoining the townsite on the west side that was previously owned by John Thomas. Some time later, Thomas Babb, Sr. bought 80 acres on the north side of the townsite. In the meantime, the town of Thomasboro was building up in leaps and bounds. Stores, dwellings, churches, and a school were built; a railroad depot and a post office had already been provided. A grocery store, blacksmith shop, livery stables, harness shop, butcher shop, and a barber shop made their appearances rather rapidly. Frazier and Walton erected a grain elevator (later called the South Elevator); and a year or two later Thomas Babb built a grain elevator (later called the North Elevator). As time progressed Thomasboro became a large grain handling station. Mr. Frazier sold his interest in the South Elevator and moved to Iowa. J. B. Walton & Sons took over the elevator, but soon after built a new and larger elevator which is in operation yet today. A few years later the North Elevator was destroyed by fire and a new firm, Morrison & Grindley, built a larger and new cribbed elevator.

About 1904, a group of farmers organized the Thomasboro Farmers Grain, Lumber & Coal Com-

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CHIEF LOADER

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on your 100th

ANNIVERSARY

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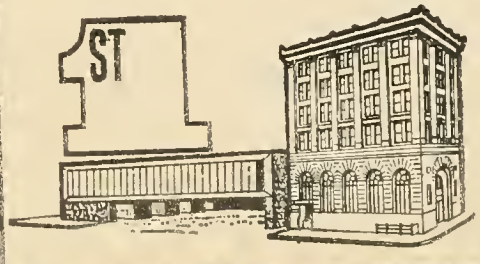

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK in Champaign

pany and bought the Morrison & Grindley Elevator. Over the years the company was managed by Cyrus E. Babb, A. N. Duvall, Robert E. Rising, Louis Irle, Jr., and Albert L. Schaede (1910-1961). Other employees have been Milton Mills, Claude Locke, Harvey Hahne, Louis Irle, Sr., Fred Hawkins, John Duden, and Edward Dean.

About 1914, an electric interurban line known as the K. U. T. was built through Thomasboro.

Kankakee-Urbana Traction Co. Station

About 1916, a group of farmers organized a grain company known as the Sharp Crossing Elevator Company. They built a grain elevator at Sharp Crossing, which was about one and one-half miles south of Thomasboro. The managers were Arthur Byers, T. H. Rewerts and John Bradberry.

About 1918, the Sharp Crossing Elevator Company bought out the firm of J. B. Walton & Sons at Thomasboro. Both elevators were known thereafter as the Sharp Elevator Company and were managed over the years by Ernest Saddoris, Charles Gilman, John Doyle and Francis C. Irle (1929-1963).

In 1963, the Sharp Elevator Company and the Thomasboro Grain, Lumber & Coal Company merged and formed the Thomasboro Grain Company, capitalized at $600,000. This company controls the three elevators, under the management of Francis C. Irle, General Manager. Mayo W. Schaede is the manager of the grain, seed and fertilizer department and Robert Morfey is manager of merchandise, hardware and feed. This company currently has under construction a new modern concrete elevator, at a cost estimated at $300,000. The grain business is Thomasboro's biggest industry!

In the last 15 years, Thomasboro has shown more progress and improvement than it had in the previous 85 years.

The original ground site was all taken up. The Peter Hallman Addition had all been sold out; although surrounded by farm land, for a time, there was none available for development. About 1920, Azro A. Arms died. His homestead consisted of about 27 1/2 acres. He already had dedicated two lots in the northeast corner for the Catholic Church and a parsonage, and one lot in the northwest corner for a Methodist Church; one lot to Azro Fiedler, a nephew; one lot to Clarence Walton; one lot facing the east to Henry Fiedler, a brother-in-law; and two lots to George W. Hampel. After Mr. Arms' death, Joseph Fiedler moved into the Arms' home and took over the balance of the land. After his death, his wife, Mrs. Ethel Fiedler (nee Ethel Burke) took over the property. Mrs. Fiedler sold the property to Paul

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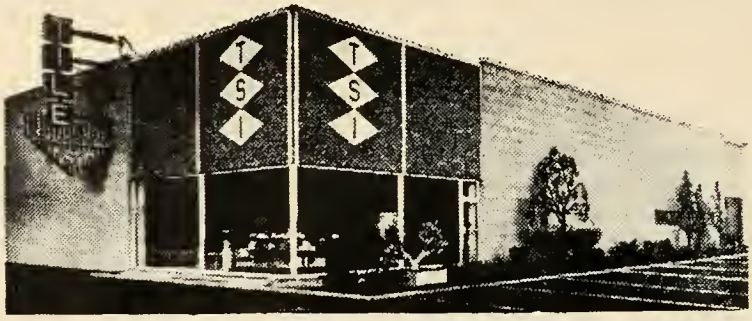

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and Flo Harris and moved to Champaign. Earlier, Mr. Harris, who was an implement salesman, and his partner, William Dyer, from Mississippi, had bought the Fiedler Brothers hardware store, once considered the largest in the county. After several years, having other interests, they sold to Willard Stewart. Harris sold one acre of land in the southeast corner to David Burns.

About 1948, Festus Arnold bought the Arms home and the remaining land, approximately twenty-four acres, platted the east part (about one-half) and laid it out in lots and streets, and offered it for sale. This was called Arnold's #1 Sub-division. Lots sold well, and in about two or three years he laid out the west part, and this was named Arnold's #2 Subdivision. Both were accepted by the Village and a building boom developed.

The lots in Arnold's Sub-division have all been sold and the construction listed with an estimated cost price, as well as other additions and improvements, in the space following:

$175,000	New brick and stone motel, 27 units, by David Burns; now owned and operated by George Garst
$100,000	Peace Lutheran Church and modern brick Parsonage
$240,000	New Modern Brick Consolidated School Building
$ 60,000	9 New Modern Homes
$ 35,000	2 New Duplexes
$ 45,000	New Brick 8-Apartment Building

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RANTOUL, ILLINOIS

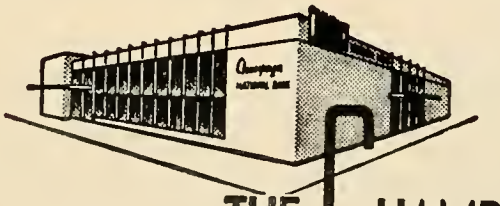
THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

	Catholic Church Sub-Division
$200,000	New Brick Catholic Church
	Bergman & Peavler Sub-division
$ 70,000	4 Modern New Dwellings
	John Jacobson Sub-Division
$264,000	12 New Brick and Stone Dwellings
	Village Improvements
$140,000	New Water System
$ 14,000	New District Fire Department Building
$ 10,000	New Post Office Building
$ 45,000	Addition to First National Bank Building
	Now Under Construction
$300,000	New Concrete Modern Elevator
$400,000	New 16-lane Bowling Alley
$ 35,000	Two-Room Addition to Grade School Building

With the completion of work now in progress, well over $2,000,000 will have been spent in the Village for new construction. Growth has not been fast or spectacular, but consistent. Population has more than doubled in recent years.

OUR BEST WISHES

ON YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY!



THE CHAMPAIGN NATIONAL BANK

PARK AND RANDOLPH, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

ROADS

by T. S. Eliot

And now you live dispersed on ribbon roads,
And no man knows or cares who is his neighbour
Unless his neighbour makes too much disturbance,
But all dash to and fro in motor cars,
Familiar with the roads and settled nowhere.

As the pioneers, our ancestors, by hard work, have left their mark for this generation, let us strive, very hard, to leave something worthwhile for posterity.

PEOPLE and EMPLOYMENT

The pioneers in business and the line that they represented were the following:

Bankers: Coon Brothers, Collisons, W. H. Wheat, M. M. Fell. O. J. Derrough, George J. Babb, Albert L. Schaede, Howard J. Babb

Barbers: Walter Herriott, Frank Alexander, Fred Wilson

Blacksmiths: Henry Arnold, Mike Knupp, Frank Clements

Butcher Shops: Louis Lyttle, Charles Manke, Bluford Perring

Cigar Manufacturers: Henry Christ, M. Hauersperger

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KERR'S DRUGS

"RANTOUL'S FINEST"

Heath and Sons Funeral Home

CHARLES W. HEATH

Champaign, Illinois

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FROM

SANDWELL'S

THE PAINT PEOPLE

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THOMASBORO
ON ITS
100th BIRTHDAY

RANTOUL DRUGS

"WALGREEN AGENCY"

Rantoul, Illinois 893-3210

THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

Druggists: Dad McCray
Grocers: Sam Kaufman, Fredrickson & Mallman, C. E. Babb, Manke & Irle, T. H. Rewerts, John Loftus
Hardware & Implements: Todd, Leonard & Fiedler, Fiedler Brothers, Dyer & Harris
Harness Shops: Elmer Nye, Ed Porter, Frank Jackson
Livery Barns: Dick Alexander, Ed Porter, Clarence Applegate
Lunch Rooms: Dad Baker, Shorty Brunner, Guy Trafford
Moving Picture Theatre: Elmer Hudson (1921)
Physicians: Dr. Ziegley, Dr. Dillon, Dr. George, Dr. Exton, Dr. Shurtz
Postmasters & Acting Postmasters: Charles E. Kelso, Albert L. Schaede, Edith Maier, Mildred Fiedler, Julia Swearingen, Ada Ulrich, Eleanor Smith and Dorothy Anderson
Railroad Agents: Herbert West, Jess Broom, Charles Gilman, James Zumwalt, Janes Bottorff
Rural Carriers and Substitutes: Chauncey James, John Grotfield, Henry Blue, Clarence Applegate, Francis H. Deakin, Gerd Smith, Jr., E. E. Grimm, Robert Christians
Saloons: George Schwartz, Gerd Smith, Mike Maier, Howard Dillman
Tile Factory: John A. Voss (1884), Fred Peters
Veterinarians: Dr. Bratton

MORE next page. . . . . .

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
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THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

The following is a list of the families who were among the early settlers of the town:

Charles E. Kelso, Sandy Huff, A. C. Clifford, Vint Harris, John Grotfield, Thomas Deakin, Sr., A. J. Grindley, Robert Morrison, William Lachenmyer, Frank Lachenmyer, A. A. Arms, George Fiedler, George Winchester, Gerd Smith, David Ziegler, Mayo Smith, John Boyle, J. B. Walton, Matt Wilhite, Al Fredrickson, Peter Mallman, Chawnsey James, John Carl, Cyrus Babb, Charles Manke, John A. Voss, George Carl, John Flessner, Howard Dillman, Mrs. Henry Hammel, Calvin Stamey, Henry Fiedler, Charles Sawyer, Ed Coleman, Mary Nicewander, Ed Porter, Fred Peters, Frank Alexander, Dick Alexander, Charles Maier, Mike Knupp, Frank Cribbett, Albert Schmidt, T. H. Rewerts, Herman Schwartz, Victoria Fiedler, Sam Micelli, James Leonard, Louis Irle, Sr., Claude Locke, William Ziegler, W. C. Snyder, Clint Collins, George Applegate, Jim Applegate, Milton Mills, Jacob Maier, Sr., Ernest Saddoris, Harry White, Albert L. Schaede, Mrs. Doty, Sam Smith, W. H. Irle.

No doubt there should be more in this list, but with families moving in and out, they are hard to recall in their entirety.

Some of the citizens of this community who have distinguished themselves over these one hundred years are as follows:

William H. Wheat--banker at the First National

MORE next page .....

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Bank of Thomasboro, President of the First National Bank of Rantoul, and later elected as a member of Congress

Howard R. Walton--known for his executive ability, President of the Hiram Walker Distilleries, member of the Board of Directors of Guderheim & Wortz Corporation

George J. Babb--known for his leadership ability, organizer and first President of the Thomasboro Farmers Grain, Lumber & Coal Company, President of the First National Bank of Thomasboro, later became Mayor of the city of Champaign.

Dr. Thomas J. Exton--physician, civic worker, a strong advocate of education and a great humanitarian

Charles C. Condit--known for his public relations work, served as sponsor, spokesman or chairman of various civic activities, sang in a quartet, later became Superintendent of Rantoul Schools

Thomasboro was chartered as a Village in 1902. Charles E. Kelso was the first President of the Board of Commissioners. Others who succeeded him in those early days were Henry J. Fiedler, Charles F. Manke, Ernest Saddoris and James O. Bottorff. Francis C. Irle and Mayo Schaede have served most recently. There have been others whom we have doubtlessly missed.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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HISTORY of our SCHOOLS

Sometime during the 1870's, our first school was built. It was a two-story, frame building with a tower and bell. After several years, some school

First school.

classes were held in two rooms of the Frank Alexander home. About twenty years after the original building was built, the enrollment had increased to a point where the building became inadequate, even with the use of the rooms in the Alexander home. So a one-story, frame addition was constructed to the south end. This building was located on the corner of Pearl and Church Streets. As the years went by, the enrollment grew larger, so something had to be done. Prior to this point some school classes were held in the second floor rooms of the old Fire Station. In 1925, the decision was made to

Second school.

build a new brick school building. It was a one-story, 72' x 100' building that contained four class rooms, a gymnasium, and an attached boiler room. The old frame building was dismanteled sometime later. At one time a two-year high school program was conducted on the second floor of the Mallman and Frederickson building.

After about another twenty-five years, the small town and country school realized that there had been little change in the structure and program of their schools, the buildings were inadequate in modern conveniences, teachers were difficult to secure, and that such student services as hot lunches, visual aides, physical education and athletics were unavailable. Besides this, the country schools were finding that their enrollments were dwindling so much that their operation was becoming more and more difficult and costly. So, a new movement was begun. State school authorities approved and endorsed the consolidation of several school districts, and the building of a new modern school building.

Third school before addition.

The vote was cast and an area of about five school districts voted to consolidate and build a new school in Thomasboro. Construction was started on a 5 1/2 acre plot in the Arnold #2 Subdivision in 1957. The new district became legally entitled, Thomasboro Community Consolidated Grade School District #130, and the new building consisted of six classrooms, a gymnasium with a stage and locker rooms attached, a kitchen for cooking hot lunches for the children, and the boiler room for the heating plant.

In the year of this centennial celebration, it was decided that the present classroom space had become inadequate for the ever growing enrollment. So, on March 17, 1964, the patrons of the school district voted to add two rooms onto the south end of the present structure. This addition will permit, for the first time, our students to have what amounts to a room for each grade. However, with present trends in education, the upper grades (6 through 8) will be departmentalized into a junior high structure.

Present day curriculum resembles only slightly that of one hundred years. The 3-R's can no longer adequately prepare today's young people in their fast-moving world. Reading, Language, Writing, and Spelling is now called Language Arts and is greatly expanded beyond the boundaries of yesterday. Mathematics has become much more than simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Science, Art, Music, and Social Studies (formerly called Geography and History) have become important to the education of children. Athletics have taken on an increasing importance in the lives of young children and adults today. Competetive sports and physical education have therefore found their way into the curriculum of today's grade schools. Our school is now among the most modern in curriculum and facilities.

Among the list of personnel that have served as principal or teacher in the Thomasboro schools over the years (not in any particular order) are as follows; Charles C. Condit, 1901-1906, Mrs. C. C. Condit, French, Hammelback, Myrtle Prather,

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

E. Dowler, Myron Taylo, Jacob Straagard, L. B. White, Hart, Iris Henry, Winnie Herriott, Mrs. Moomaw, Donaldson, Kate Murray, Evelyn Temple, Rufus Bateman, Ruth Groves, Minnie Davis, Mrs. Higginson, Margaret Norman, Jessee Miller, Mr. Lee, Otis Keys, E. G. Harper, Nettie McNeil, Jane Phillips, Lawrence, Mina Thompson, Lula Clements, Mildred Irle, Edward McAdams, Bonney Hall, Mrs. Vida Welsh, Mrs. Faye Exton, Mrs. Dorothy D. Jesse, Jean Barr, Barbara Schwartz, and many others that we cannot recall at the moment.

Mr. James Dudley was superintendent of the district when the new school was opened in the fall of 1957. He served until Harold A. Jones, the current superintendent, came on the scene in July of 1961. Teachers who have been on the staff this past year are as follows: Mrs. Dorothy Bash, Mrs. Janice Bengtson, Mrs. Francis Davidson, Mrs. Ella Gossard, Mr. B. R. Gholson, Mrs. Ruth Ross and Mrs. Ruth Waller.

Board of Education members who have given their services freely to the current school district are as follows: Arnold Ackerman, William Burke, Harry (Bud) Babb, William Goldenstein, Mrs. Lillian Irle, Robert Morfey, Wilkey Raup, John Schluter, Henry Uden, Rev. M. E. Wackler, Mrs. Clarice Woller, and Richard Collins.

Mrs. Lorena Ellis, Miss Minnie Christians and Mrs. Mercedes Stanger have been ladies that have seen that the children have been fed well in the current school's hot lunch program. Martin Huls

MORE next page . . . . . .

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and

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General Contractor

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Thomasboro, Ill.

THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

and Henry Flesner have been the most recent custodians of the school buildings. Berl E. Peavler and Herman H. Suits have been the only drivers of the school buses which were acquired two years ago. Prior to that time parents were hired to drive their automobiles to haul in their children to the new school. Mrs. Ruby Barr, school office secretary, and Mrs. Eleanor Smith, district treasurer, are current employees of the district. Mrs. Mildred Exton has also served as treasurer.

OUR CHURCHES

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Peace Lutheran Church today.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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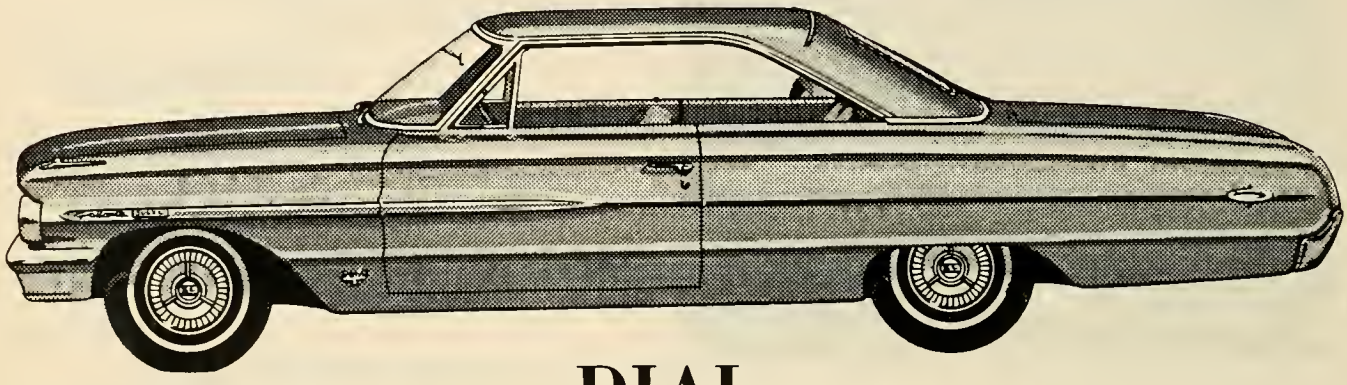

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

The history of the Peace Lutheran Congregation dates back to 1870. A group of Christian families from Adams County, Illinois, combined with a number of German families who were already living in the area, among which were names of Herdt, Boecker, Keal, and Wolter, and originated a church located six miles east of Thomasboro.

In 1880 a plot of ground was purchased from Mr. A. Kuhlman, and on it the first parsonage was erected. After the house was completed, the carpenters immediately began construction of the first church building, which was dedicated to the glory of God on the 25th Sunday after Trinity. The parsonage and church were destroyed by fire on June 1, 1947. The following week the congregation immediately made arrangements to conduct services in the Methodist Church of Thomasboro and Sunday School in the Thomasboro Grade School.

The congregation was fortunate in obtaining a parcel of ground 225' x 280' from Festus Arnold, who offered some of his property as a subdivision for the Village of Thomasboro. On this property a new, modern, brick church was built, and was dedicated on March 27, 1949. Adjoining the church, a new, brick modern parsonage was built and was dedicated on January 9, 1955.

The pastors who have served this congregation over the years are the Reverends Ave 'Lallemant, 1880-1891; Gieschen, 1891-1898; Maisch, 1898-

MORE next page . . . . . .

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1902; Hitzemann, 1903-1908; Elbert, 1909-1912; Schroeder, 1912-1945; Lehenbauer, 1945-1951; and their present pastor, M. E. Wackler, whose family has been residents of our village since December 14, 1952.

--Excerpts from "Diamond Jubilee"

ST. ELIZABETH

St. Elizabeth's Church and Rectory today.

In 1893, Father Wagner built the first Catholic Church on land donated by a non-Catholic friend, Azro A. Arms. St. Elizabeth of Hungary was named patroness of the parish in memory of Father

MORE next page . . . . . .

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Wagner's mother; the main altar was also dedicated to her momory. Sometime later the parish became a mission of St. John's Church in Champaign, served by Fathers Charles Steurer, John Geier and Edward Jacobs.

The first resident pastor of the parish was Reverend Charles Frencken, 1907-1910. The rectory, also a frame structure, was built in 1908. Between 1910 and January, 1934, the parish was served by Reverends Peter Bienemann, H. F. Hanser, and Patrick Griffy.

Until the appointment of a permanent pastor the priests from St. John's in Champaign took care of the parish. On March 15, 1934, Reverend B. J. Tomaszewski became pastor. In July, 1935, Reverend Leo F. Dee succeeded Father Tomaszewski. During the four years of his pastorate, he directed a complete renovation of the interior of the church and rectory, with the cooperation of the Altar and Rosary Society.

Father Dee was succeeded by Reverend Paul A. Reddy on June 15, 1939, who administered the parish for fifteen years. During this time, a garage was built and the church tower remodeled.

The present pastor, Reverend Joseph J. O'Dea, was appointed on May 5, 1954, by Bishop William E. Cousins, who is now Archbishop of Milwaukee. During this same year, the men of the parish renovated both the church and the rectory. The administration of the parish cemetery was en-

MORE next page . . . . . .

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trusted to a board of governors elected from those owning lots and supervised by the pastor. The ten acres of land acquired from Mrs. Mathilda Johnson at a cost of $2,000 per acre was farmed by the men of the parish during 1957 and 1958.

In August, 1957, the old Thomasboro Grade School was purchased for $7,400. This money was taken from the parish funds and supplemented by the Altar and Rosary Society and the Holy Name Society. This was renovated by the men of the parish to be used as a parish hall. On March 12, 1958, the church and rectory were destroyed by fire of an unknown origin.

On December 28, 1958, ground was broken on a site for the new church and rectory. Mass was celebrated in the new church for the first time on November 19, 1959, the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

--Excerpts from Dedication Manual

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FLATVILLE
OUR NEIGHBORS EAST

April 20, 1874, was an important occasion in the history of the Flatville Church. Before this date, they had been holding meetings in public school buildings. The East Friesian settlers decided to build their own place of worship; a building 28' x 40', 14 feet high was erected.

In 1886, at a special meeting of the voting members, it was concluded that the church had become

MORE next page . . . . . .

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too small and a decision was reached to build a new one. In 1887, a much larger church was built. It was a frame structure, and it was equipped with a good pipe organ and a church bell.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Educational wing and parsonage.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

In 1914, the present (third) church was built. It is a magnificent structure, noted as "The Cathedral In The Cornfield," an ediface some consider the most beautiful country church in the state.

Five young men from the congregation dedicated their lives to the ministry. They are: Peter Hinrichs, Bernhard Arthur Loeschen, Arthur Libby Albers, Henry Andrew Flessner and Henry Dirks. Several other members of the congregation have become prominent in religious work.

The pastors who have served this congregation over the years are the Reverends Grupe, Fischer, Lallemant, Heiniger, Seehase, Moehl (1895-1938), Hafermann, and Dirks. The present pastor, Reverend Russell Mueller, resides in the modern parsonage in the church yard.

--Excerpts from "Diamond Jubilee"

MT. VERNON CHURCH

Located about eight miles southwest of Thomasboro is one of the few remaining country churches.

On January 4, 1874, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees; namely, David King, James Wright, Walter Reece, C. F. Sthralie, M. G. Coyner, E. Yexley and B. F. Jones, a contract was let to Hubbard, Biddle & Miller for $3,171.41 for a new church building.

On August 14, 1874, the new church was dedicated. Folks came from far and near in their horse-drawn buggies to attend the dedication. The church was beautiful with its high steeple, small

MORE next page . . . . . .

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Mount Vernon Methodist Church.

trees surrounding it and hitching posts in the front. There were two entrances--one for women and one for men. The potbellied stove stood in the rear of the church. Kerosene lamps hung on the side walls. This was Mt. Vernon Church.

The first wedding was that of John Crouch and Miss Harriett French on November 7, 1877; per-

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formed by the Reverend Joseph Long, the first minister. The first baptism was that of Ahi Nelson, in July, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Phillippe presented the first organ to the congregation in 1880.

The first Ladies Aid Society was formed in 1904; and the first meeting was held in the Banner home, which is now the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brock. Mrs. Ida Dell Nelson was the first president of this organization.

The church was remodeled in 1939. One of the entrances was closed at that time. And the first bell was placed in the belfry that year. The lawn was newly landscaped during this work.

In October, 1949, the church folks celebrated a diamond anniversary. In addition to serving the residents of Hensley Township, there are members of the congregation from Champaign, Thomasboro and Rantoul. The present membership numbers 189.

OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

According to the old timers, the first fire department of Thomasboro was in 1905. At that time the chief was Joe Knupp. There was from twelve to fifteen men on the department. The first truck was a hand-pulled and hand-operated machine. A few years later a second fire pump was purchased which could be pumped by hand or by a four cylinder Rutenbur motor mounted on it.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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Scene 3:	Miss Thomasboro
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Scene 1:	Indian Campsite
Scene 2:	The Chief Speaks
Scene 3:	Indian Ceremonial
Episode Three:	WAGON TRACKS
Scene 1:	Settling in Thomasboro
Scene 2:	Frontier Life!
Scene 3:	Having a Hoedown
Episode Four:	DARK VOLUME
Scene 1:	The Union Soldiers
Scene 2:	A Great Man Speaks
Episode Five:	
Scene 1:	Groundbreaking for our First Church
Scene 2:	Early Services
Scene 3:	Indian Princesses & Prayer
Episode Six:	THE GOLDEN RULE
Scene 1:	Farmer, Mr. Babb
Scene 2:	Early School
Episode Seven:	THE HAPPY TIME
Scene 1:	A Picnic
Scene 2:	The Bathing Beauties
Scene 3:	Dolly's Back
Episode Eight:	CALL TO ARMS
Scene 1:	World War I Memorium
Scene 2:	In Flanders Field
Episode Nine:	THE LIVELY YEARS
Scene 1:	The Charleston
Scene 2:	Silent Movies
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Scene 1:	Iwo Jima
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Episode Eleven:	AGE OF THE ATOM
Scene 1:	Count Down
Scene 2:	Space Age
Episode Twelve:	A THOMASBORO SALUTE
Scene 1:	Our Proud Cast
Scene 2:	The National Anthem
Scene 3:	Fireworks.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1964 -- GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

9:00 a.m. — A salvo of bombs, ringing of church bells and blowing of fire sirens, announcing the opening of the Thomasboro Centennial Celebration.

9:10 a.m. — Welcome - Honorable Mayo Schaede, Mayor of Thomasboro.

All day: — Registration of guests at Centennial Headquarters.

Family Midway. Rides and fun for all.

Display of old and new farm equipment.

Display of antiques.

12:00 noon — Tractor Pull Contest.

1:00 p.m. — Ice Cream Social and Style Show, presenting fashions through the decades. Prizes. Final judging of Centennial Belles' costumes. Awards for the best authentic costume, best replica and best costumed family group.

3:00 p.m. — Horseshoe Contest.

4:00 p.m. — Old Fiddler's Contest and Square Dancing.

8:00 p.m. — Pre-spectacle entertainment by Barbershop Quartettes. Presentation of afternoon award winners.

8:30 p.m. — Queen's Coronation. An elaborate ceremony in which the Queen is presented to her "Subjects." The Queen is then presented her crown by dignitary. This is followed by the presentation of awards to Princesses of the Court of Honor.

Premier performance of "Century of Progress," followed by fireworks finale.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1964 - YOUTH DAY

All day: — Displays of the children's woodcraft, sewing, baking, etc.

Family Midway

9:00 a.m. — Kiddie Parade, Bicycles, Doll Buggy and pets. Awards given - 1st and 2nd. Parade to be led by the Thomasboro Consolidated Grade School Band.

10:00 a.m. — Style Show - Girls 4-H Club.

10:30 a.m. — Judging of King and Queen, 5 - 12 years.

11:00 a.m. — Starting of contests.

12:00 noon — Sweet Corn feast.

1:00 p.m. — Contests continue.

3:00 p.m. — Girl's softball game and boy's Little League Game.

7:00 p.m. — Teen-age Dance, 13-19 years. Ed Mason, Host.

8:00 p.m. — Band Concerts.

8:30 p.m. — Second performance of "Century of Progress," followed by fireworks

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1964 - ARMED FORCES DAY

All day: — Registration of guests at Centennial Headquarters.

Family Midway.

Antique Display.

Military Displays.

Morning: — Welcoming of dignitaries.

2:00 p.m. — Mammoth Float Parade with bands, marching units, floats, antique vehicles, etc.

4:00 p.m. — Beard Judging Contest: Best all-around beard, Worst Beard, Lincoln Type Beard, Lamb Chops, Sideburns, Goatee, and Best Mustache.

8:00 p.m. — Pre-spectacle entertainment - Marvin Lee Hootenanny Show and presentation of awards to beard contest winners.

8:30 p.m. — Third performance of "Century of Progress," followed by fireworks finale.

8:30 p.m. — Pre-ball Square Dance.

9:30 p.m. — Centennial Ball - Bob Norman Orchestra.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1964 - FAITH OF OUR FATHERS AND HOMECOMING DAY

Morning: — Centennial observance in all churches: Theme, "100 Years of Religious Endeavor in Thomasboro." Visit our churches!

2:00 p.m.	Presentation of awards to the oldest man and woman, to oldest man and woman of continuous residence in Thomasboro and adjacent unincorporated areas and to former resident returning from the furthest compass point for the ceremony.	8:00 p.m.	Pre-spectacle entertainment by Newtown Singers, Chanute Air Force Base. Introduction of afternoon award winners.
	Religious service at "Century of Progress" site. Rev. Foster, speaker. Music by massed choir of all denominations.	8:30 p.m.	Final performance of "Century of Progress," followed by fireworks finale.

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

The revenue from the saloons purchased these trucks and built the first fire station, which is still standing and presently used by the village. This building was built in the early 1900's.

Old Fire Station.

In 1925, a four-cylinder International fire truck was purchased. In 1929, it was taken to Kankakee, Illinois by J. C. Maier and a six-cylinder Lycomie motor was installed in it. This truck is still in use today. The fire department consisted of the following men at that time: Chief Charles Ratramel, Harry Grotfield, Harry Manke, J. C. Maier,

MORE next page . . . . . .

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Herman Schwartz, Joseph Fiedler, Robert Cribbett, Mike Maier, Ash Fiedler, Mayo Schaede, Butch Maier and Charles Manke.

The following men have been chiefs of the Thomasboro Fire Department over the years: Joe Knupp, J. C. Maier, Sr., Dode Hauersperger, Charles Ratramel, J. C. Maier, Jr. (1927-1949) and Louis H. Irle, currently.

The present Thomasboro Fire Protection District was organized in 1957. The old blacksmith shop property was purchased and the present fire station was erected. This station houses one

New Fire Station

1964-750 gallon-a-minute pumper with a 500-gallon tank, one 1957-750 gallon-a-minute pumper with a 750-gallon tank, the old 1925 International truck, one G.M.C. 1800-gallon tanker, and one Cadillac ambulance, also used as an equipment car. At

MORE next page . . . . . .

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DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

the present time the department consists of thirty-two men. The fire district has an A plus rating for the property in the district. This fire district embraces 60 square miles, with headquarters in Thomasboro.

Thomasboro Fire District
Louis H. Irle, Chief

FLATVILLE

Flatville is a rural community, with a large church, located at a cross-road on a state aid route, seven miles east of Thomasboro. It got its name from its location in the "Flats," a large area of marshy land. As usual, the country church is the heart, or center, of the community, a meeting place where people gathered to discuss the activities and affairs of the locality. It was also used for lectures, both foreign and domestic, choir practice, singing, musical cantatas and various other programs. The settlement was unique in that the original settlers, who bought the land would not sell; and he, or a member of his family, yet holds the title to the farm. This seems to be the rule in this settlement, so, an outsider would have a slim chance of getting in. It is a father, son, grandson operation, and some of the farms are now operated by third and fourth generations of the same family. No land for sale, no farms for rent, no transient tenants and not many hired

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (continued)

farm hands, as most farmers have home-help.

Years ago, Marm Frerichs, a blacksmith, opened up a general store on one of the corners of the cross-roads. It was later taken over by a young man from Chicago; his name was Abe Leavitt. After about ten years, he sold out, and today the store is being operated by Henry Suits, On another corner of the square is a modern brick rural school with a large gymnasium, a pride to the community.

Flatville, a territory of over fifty square miles, of tightly-held, almost exclusively German Lutherans, who through their farmer-owned and owner-operated methods have developed one of the richest agricultural areas in this part of the country.

About 1870, the low lands east of Thomasboro became the homesites of a group of German families from Golden, Illinois. These families had originally emigrated from East Friesia, Germany. The land was raw and had never been farmed. For a year or two they could only farm the high portions of the land, as the low ground would hold waters a good portion of the time. They dug trenches and ditches to divert the water and reclaim more farm ground each year. After a few years there was an influx of emigrants from Germany, who also settled there. And as more and more came each year, more and more land was reclaimed. And by 1884, a tile factory was built in Thomasboro by a German, John A. Voss. Expansion of the area was followed by further colonization of the German

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (Continued)

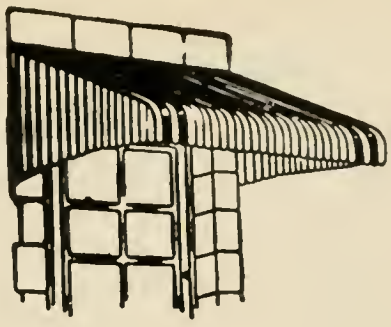
people until the territory became almost a solid settlement of Germans.

Some of the families of the early settlers were: A. H. Blue, John Blue, Ernest Lang, Henry Boten, John Kuhlman, Reiner Benting, John Ehler, Gerhardt Ehler, Wichie Ehler, Labinus Tillman, Dietrick Meyer, Ehme Schmidt, Tjark Rewerts, Fred Albers, Uffe Bergman, Everett Bergman, Albert Bergman, John Duitsman, Berbers, Albert Schmidt, John Wolken, Barney Buhr, Marm Frerichs, Albert Loschen, John Demien, Louis Demien, John Aden, Bakers, Ehme Lubben, Fred Mennenga, Carl Mannenga, Harm Lubben, John Peters, Henry Rewerts, McCaskrin, John Grussing, August Iungerich, Mattie Peterson, Henry Raup, Mrs. James (who had a sorghum mill). Jacob Nicewander and his wife, Mary Jane Kerr, bought 120 acres from the government about four miles east of Thomasboro. Their neighbors, although scattered, were the Tattersals, Scotts, Seymours, and Fred Keal, who raised, bought and shipped livestock.

These Germans seemed to have much in common: farmers, same origin (apparently low-land), same province, same denomination, honest, hard-working, aggressive, and same obstacles to overcome. They seemed to know what they were doing.

After they became fully settled they organized drainage districts, and at big expense, brought in large dredge-boats and cut deep, open parallel ditches every mile or two, as conditions warranted. Then they put in miles of tile to the ditches, which

MORE next page . . . . . .



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drained the land and created a vast area of rich, black, vegetable loam. It became a tillable, agricultural garden spot.

LAND of HUNTERS

The abundance of game brought out the desire to hunt and shoot wild game birds and rabbits. Hordes of hunters turned out, mostly young men and boys. When a boy attained the age of about twelve years, he hoped for and usually got a shotgun for a birthday or Christmas present. Younger boys would trap rabbits with box traps set in the hedges, then clean and dress them, and bring them to town to sell to the housewives all ready for the oven. Dressed rabbits commanded a premium, because they had not been bruised or shot up. About every home had a hunter or two in the family. Hundreds of shotguns were sold to farmers in this area. They not only hunted for "meat for the table," but if the day's hunt was good, surplus would be cleaned, boxed and shipped to the market at Chicago. Later, contracts were made with several large hotels in Chicago, and the hunters would ship direct to where this food was considered a delicacy. The prize game birds for market were the golden plover, snipes, and quail. These brought more revenue over the cost of the ammunition.

After years, as the land was being developed, drained and made tillable, the lure to migratory

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (Continued)

game birds were lost and fewer stopped with every passing year. Finally the hunters lost their paradise. Some farmers had an over-supply of domestic pigeons, which flew at will and fed on the waste grain on the farm. Farmers would shoot maybe fifty or more, box them, and ship them to the market. But this did not pay. So some were used for live-bird shoots, but this, too, was soon discontinued.

Now, some of these farmer-hunter, expert field shots resorted to the sport of trapshooting and clay-bird targets with great results. Out of this group came champions--note the records:

Mark Arie, trapshooter--taken from "Who's Who in American Sports"

1905, 1907, and 1909--Won Grand American Handicap Championship in Indianapolis, Indiana

1912--Won National Amateur Double Target Championship in Springfield, Illinois

1914--Won Sunny South Tournament in Houston, Texas

1917--Won National Amateur Single Target Championship in Chicago, Illinois

1919, 1920, 1923, and 1926--Won Illinois State Trapshooting

1920--Won the World's Championship and Olympic Individual Trapshooting Championship

1923--Won Grand American Handicap Championship

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"A Tree is God's Creation"

Proudly we quote Joyce Kilmer's immortal song.

I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree. A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed against the earth's sweet flowing breast. A tree that looks at God all day and lifts her leafy arms to pray. A tree that may in summer wear a nest of robins in her hair. Upon whose bosom snow has lain who intimately lives with rain. Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree.

As manager of the lumber division, talk with me when you think of lumber. I will please you.

THOMASBORO GRAIN COMPANY
Robert C. Morfey

THE THOMASBORO STORY (Continued)

1924--Won Mid-Winter Tournament at Pinehurst, North Carolina
1926--Established a World's record for doubles (198 out of 200) at Denver, Colorado
1927--Won Mid-Winter Tournament at Pinehurst, North Carolina

Mark won the Olympics in Italy and met the best shots in Europe in the process. He was a representative of Western Cartridge Co. and Winchester Arms Co. He retired in 1938 and died in 1957.

Nick Arie, brother of Mark, reported to have won the Championship of Texas

Mike Maier, trapshooting--Won the 1949 Championship for Illinois

Jacob Maier, trapshooting--Tied for the 1938 championship at Cheek Gun Club in Clinton, Indiana and won the Championship at the same place in 1950

Francis C. Irle, trapshooting--Averaged 96% in the 1938 average book for trapshooters

The following is a list of excellent field shots who have broken better than 90 out of every 100 clay birds: Gerhardt Meyer, Jacob Stein, Joseph Lowry, Reiner Ehler, Dick Ehmen, George Hammel, W. H. Irle, and Louis Irle, Sr.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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MORE next page . . . .

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Mr. Ferdinand Hammel was born February 3, 1864, in Marshall County, Illinois. His parents moved to the Thomasboro area when he was a young boy. He farmed near Thomasboro, and in 1893 he married Margaretha Seeber. The couple had three sons, George, Jacob and Egidius. All three of the sons farmed in the area also. George and Jacob still reside in this area; Egidius is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hammel retired and moved into Thomasboro in 1934. Mrs. Hammel passed away in 1952 and the son Egidius, in 1958. The family owns and controls over two thousand acres of farm land.

BASEBALL

Thomasboro has always been a "red hot" baseball territory. Probably, the first organized team around here, about 1910, was the "Gum-Boot Nine." Unique, as there were three members each of three families--Maiers, Irles and Warners. If they had substitutes, which they probably did, they well could have been Maiers, as there were nine boys in one Maier family. Along with their regular equipment of bats and balls, they probably had four sacks of sand for bases. They would drive to any pasture anywhere, step off a diamond, place the sand-bag bases and be in business. They used gum-boots to keep from slipping on the grassy diamond. No records are available on the games played.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (Continued)

By 1910, a young group of good ball players were available. Ernest Saddoris was the manager. A team was picked from surrounding territory and a game was scheduled with the Kankakee Browns, a semi-pro team. The game was featured. The Illinois Central Railroad gave excursion rates to Kankakee and return; about one-half of the populace made the trip. Thomasboro defeated the Browns. Some of the players that made the trip were: Ray Marshall, Sylvester Derrough, Gerhardt Meyer, Edward Fiedler, Ferdinand Fiedler, George Gathers, Mark Arie, "Cotton" Yates and Gene Woldridge. After the game, Kankakee signed up several of the Thomasboro players.

From 1932 to 1944, Thomasboro had teams entered in the Eastern Illinois League. They won one league championship and one tournament championship after the regular season play. They averaged in the upper half most of the time. Some of the players on the E. I. team were: Harry Manke, Russell Schaede, Henry Maier, Ed Bermingham, Joseph Maier, Mike Maier, Ed Cribbett, Ralph Maier, "Boots" Maier and "Cuppie" Freeman.

FAREWELL to the HORSE

Horses furnished the power on the farm in the early history of this and other rural areas. Horse-drawn vehicles were the only means of transportation and were a necessity of this life. A horse

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shortage would slow up farm work, and then the days would become much longer than the nights for the farmer. There were not any set hours for a day's work; the season set the time for the work to be done. There was a lot of trafficing in horses; especially during the work season. Horse-buyers would drive up and down the country roads eager to buy, sell or trade.

In the early days, it took several years before a farmer became established; during that time, he would raise his own horses. Registered stallions were imported from France, Germany, England, and Belgium for breeding purposes. These were available to anyone interested, however, they were high in price. The farmers would form a company of as many as twenty members who would pay about one hundred dollars each, representing around two thousand dollars, for a stallion that would serve these farmers for a year. Because they would want draft or work-horses, they would select from the following breeds: Percheon, Morgan, Shire, Clydesdale, and Norman. Horse raising became quite a business. Even cities, in the early days, used horse-drawn street cars, bread wagons, milk wagons, ice wagons and delivery wagons of all kinds. The horse played a large part in the development of our country. Remember, it took about three generations of horses to serve one generation of farmers.

Horses were bred for all sizes and purposes. The city folks, for conveyance, would have a road

MORE next page . . . . . .

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or driving horse (lighter in weight and more slender for traveling) hitched to a phaeton; or if the family went, they used a surrey ("with the fringe on top"). Farmers usually kept a driving horse to drive back and forth to town for shopping. There were several classes of horses: Driving, for travel or race; Draft, for pulling; Saddle, for riding or derby; Ponies for the children; Polo; and the dwarf, Shetland.

Then, sometime after the 1920's it happened, the introduction of the automobile. Then came the truck and tractor. Gradually production of these was increased; and sometime later they were available to everyone. The horse began to lose favor. Year after year, there were more tractors and fewer horses; and the time came when "Ole Dobbin," "the farmer's best friend" had passed on.

From a humanitarian point of view, the horse was a slave of man. He had nothing to gain for his efforts but a livelihood, and in some cases it seemed to be meager. In this case, "Hail to Automation."

THE WILDERNESS IS TAMED

by Elizabeth Coatsworth

The axe has cut the forest down,
The laboring ox has smoothed all clear,
Apples now grow where pine trees stood,
And slow cows graze instead of deer.

MORE next page . . . . . .

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (Continued)

Where Indian Fires once raised their smoke
The chimneys of a farmhouse stand,
And cocks crow barnyard challenges
To dawns that once saw savage land.

The axe, the plow, the binding wall,
By these the wilderness is tamed,
By these the white man's will is wrought,
The rivers bridged, the towns named.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

When every small town or village had a public well, generally known as the "Town Well" . . . where pedestrians, travelers, farmers could stop and get a fresh drink of water, without obligation . . . otherwise, you would have to go to a private home and ask for a drink. Almost every house that was built necessarily had a well and pump, usually back of the house. One of the morning chores was to take the old red cedar bucket and get a fresh supply of water for household use. This was a convenience. A long handled dipper was placed in the bucket and served for the family and guests. Those that did not have a well had to carry water from their neighbors in buckets, and on wash day this became some chore. In those days it was the

MORE next page . . . . . .

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Maurice Duitsman	Asst. Supervisor
Mike A. Maier	Road Commissioner
Russell A. Schaede	Tax Assessor
Kenneth Stephens	Township Clerk
William Keal	Auditor
Jack Jones	Auditor
Robert Parker	Auditor

only way you could transport water. However, Thomasboro did something about it. Their well was located on the street in front of a blacksmith shop. They erected a windmill to pump the water . . . with a tower about 40 feet high. They also set up a large horse tank for watering horses . . . of course, (this had not yet become automatic) the tank would fill up and overflow and cause muddiness around the tank. Sometimes the puddle would get so deep that a horse coming up to drink would sink half way to his knees. This was the concern of the townsfolk . . . the blacksmith would not assume sole responsibility. It was decided that any citizen passing by would observe the condition . . . and, if the tank was full or overflowing, he was obligated to shut down the windmill. Almost all of the farmers had windmills; especially those that raised cattle, as it would take a lot of water for the stock. Most of the schools and churches maintained the old hand pump, and tin cup attached to the pump . . . everybody drank out of the same tin cup. Later, the children were given their own individual cups, usually the collapsible type.

How about when Thomasboro had coal-oil street lights . . . Frank Holt was the custodian. When Osage hedge was set out to form boundary lines . . . also for house and barn-lot fences . . . and required lots of work to keep it trimmed. However, some let the hedge grow tall to form a wind-break. Then there was a fruit orchard on almost every

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THE THOMASBORO STORY (Continued)

farm . . . and the gasoline engines were available with a pump-jack which displaced the windmill. The introduction of barb-wire . . . which with hedge posts became the universal fence and replaced the hedge fence. Every town had a hitching rack as a convenience to the farmers to tie their horses to when they came to town . . . every home had a hitching post in front of the house for guests . . . the well-to-do had ornamental, cast-iron or turned wood posts.

Our first fire fighting was in the good old days of board walks, mud streets, kerosene street lamps and trees of all kinds. There was plenty of time for living, hunting, fishing and just plain whittling, as there were benches available all over town. The basic pay for putting in our side walks was a sack of flour a day, about 90 cents. This writer wonders whether or not they were not "the good old days" when a man could live and let live, instead of this present maelstrom we are in, when only now days you see your neighbor at a funeral.

What about some of these things for memory's sake? . . . two acre gardens . . . 25 trees of apples . . . others of peaches and plums . . . homemade bread . . . car loads of flour, and of potatoes . . . coffee by the 100 pound bags . . . corn huskers by hand by the 100's . . . a silver dollar for a day's pay, if you were lucky. CAN YOU REMEMBER ALL OF THIS?????

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

MORE next page . . . . . .

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The material for these articles was compiled and written by Albert L. Schaede (with two exceptions) and edited and arranged by Harold A. Jones. The History Committee and Pageant Committee wish to thank the many persons who contributed information to make this history possible. Our special thanks to Edward F. Fiedler, Reiner Ehler, Harry Manke, William Irle, Howard Babb, Francis Irle, Mrs. Mildred Exton, and Clyde L. Gifford in his "Thomasboro, As I Knew It."

Errors of ommission, typographical errors, misspellings and all oversights will be rectified and acknowledgments made in the next Sesquicentennial Program to be published in the year 2013. Please contact the Committee at that time!!!

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SUMMATION

The preceding history of Thomasboro was unanimously approved by the various division chairmen; but it was also noted how adroitly the historian, A. L. Schaede, in his modesty, failed to mention himself. The writer was delegated to tell a little about Mr. Schaede.

Albert is the son of a talented musician and composer. His father studied in the Berlin Conservatory of Music in Germany. After serving his time in the War of 1866, he migrated to Champaign, Illinois. In that city, our historian was born in the year 1881.

I know little of his boyhood, but from others I gather these facts. His natural flair as a young man was printing, but he has told me of other activities. He worked during vacation time in a hemp factory for $3.60 a week. He husked corn and scooped coal. In the year 1900 he attended a dance in Thomasboro, where he met Hattie Smith, whom he married a few years later. They moved to Thomasboro in the year 1904.

During the past sixty years, this man has been a continuous resident of our community. For fifty years he was the manager of Thomasboro Grain, Lumber & Coal Company. When approached to work for this firm, he said, "I want a steady job." I leave it to you whether it was steady or not. For thirty years Al and I were competitors in the grain business. He was fair, honest and always willing to help me and many others. Reportedly, there are many men who are indebted to him for

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the many loans and credits extended to them. Al proudly claims that very few men ever failed to live up to their obligations to him. If any man knows the history of this community, this man does.

Al's father composed an played the first commencement music for the old Illinois Industrial College in Urbana, Illinois in 1867. This was the predecessor to the University of Illinois. The Schaede Band was known from Mattoon to Kankakee. In the good old days of the 1860's all musical instruments had to be imported. Al tells me he believes he has covered five thousand miles in those musical days.

While on a vacation in old Mexico, Al was told by his son-in-law that in that country it was the custom for the father of the bride to give the couple a sheep and a couple of lambs. This son-in-law was quite surprised a few months later to have a truck deliver a sheep, two lambs, sheep shears and fencing.

Mr. Schaede has had his ups and downs, but he is still young of heart. Asked about his family, he told me he has five children, eleven grand children and twenty-two great grandchildren. His wife passed away just a few short years ago.

The various committees thank him for the time and effort he put forth in writing our history for this centennial.

THOMASBORO CENTENNIAL
by Francis C. Irle

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